(b) whether Government are contemplating to form any auxiliary regiment to support the BSF in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI):

(a) No, Sir. BSF battalions deployed on the border have adequate manpower to operate the gates in the fencing on the International Borders in a regulated manner.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The question does not arise.

Citizens below 35 years

2382. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of citizens below 35 years of age in the country;

(b) the total number of voters of 18 years of age included in the voter's list 2007; and

(c) the total number of citizens whose age is above 60 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) The Government collects the population data of all age groups at each decennial census but does not ascertain their citizenship status. As per Census 2001, the number of persons of age 18 years, those below 35 years and those of 60 years and above are 27,686,902; 711,287,271 and 76,622,321 respectively.

No separate data about the total number of voters of 18 years of age with reference to any year, is maintained by the Election Commission.

Modernization of elite special forces

2383. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are concerned over the slow pace of modernization of the elite special forces;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the slow pace is bound to affect the long term projects of the special forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) While about 57% of the amount allocated for modernisation of para military forces during the period 2002 to 2007

could be incurred, but with the amounts already spent for modernization, Central Para-Military Forces (CPMFs) have been able to procure substantial quantity of sophisticated weaponry, communication/surveillance equipment and bullet proof vehicles which are being used extensively by the CPMFs during various operations with good effect.

It has been a constant endeavour on the part of the Government to equip the forces with modem weaponry/equipments etc. In order to ensure speedy/full utilization of earmarked funds, the Government has taken various steps to expedite procurement process such as setting up of expert groups for formulation of qualitative requirements, initiating process for procuring items not available on DGS&D late contracts through open tender, etc.

Non-utilization of funds under modernisation of police force scheme

†2384. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount given to different States for modernization of police forces is not utilized fully;

(b) whether Government have received any complaints or information regarding the diversion of this amount for some other purpose by State Governments;

(c) the effects of the diversion or non-utilization of the full amount on the security system; and

(d) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The funds released to various State Governments under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF Scheme) have been, by and large, fully utilized by States except a few instances of unspent funds being carried over to the subsequent year(s). However, no specific complaint or information regarding diversion of the funds has been received in this Ministry. Instructions are issued from time to time to the State Governments to ensure proper and timely utilization of funds released during previous years and funds are released in subsequent years in the light of utilization reports received from the States.

Naxal attack on people's representatives and officials

†2385. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of incidents of attack of Naxalite's Organisation on people's representative and officers of General Administration have increased in the last three years;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.